

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action dated December 12, 2005. Currently claims 1-14 are pending with claims 1, 4, and 12-14 being independent. Claims 1-3 are allowed. Claims 4-8 and 12 are amended. Claims 13-14 are new. Support for these claims can be found in the Applicants' specification on pages 13, line 6 to page 14, line 15.

In the December 12, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the December 12, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,324,661 to Gerbault et al. (hereinafter, "Gerbault"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge allowance of claims 1-3.

35 U.S.C. 112

In the December 12, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended claims 4-8 and 12 to clarify how files are recovered from another node. Support for these amendments is found in the specification on page 13, line 25 to page 14, line 10. The Examiner is referred to the specification for further clarification. Hence, these rejections are respectfully traversed. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejections of claims 4 and 12.

Claims 5-11 depend from independent claim 4 and were rejected as being dependant on a rejected base claim. The rejections of claims 5-11 are negated by the amendment to claim 4. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejections of claims 5-11.

35 U.S.C. 102

In the December 12, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Gerbault. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 recites a method for managing integrity of a file, the method comprising: performing a content checksum of a file in a repository node to obtain a checksum and storing the checksum in the repository node; subsequently performing the content checksum on the file to obtain another checksum and comparing the another checksum with the checksum; and if the comparison fails to indicate that the checksums are the same, recovering a copy of the file from another repository node.

Gerbault describes a method for managing data integrity faults in a re-writeable memory. The method performs a check on the integrity of at least some of the main data. If a defect is revealed, the method allocates at least one default value to at least one item of secondary data, thereby requiring an interchange to be performed on-line during the following operation. (See, Abstract, and Col. 4, lines 43-48). However, Gerbault does not describe that if two checksums are not the same, then recovering a copy of the file from another repository node, as recited in claim 4. In contrast, Gerbault only assigns a default value to the data that further requires an on-line interchange. This is different from recovering a copy of the file from another repository node, as recited in claim 4. Thus, Gerbault does not describe every element of claim 4, and claim 4 should be allowed. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is requested to reconsider and withdraw his rejection of claim 4.

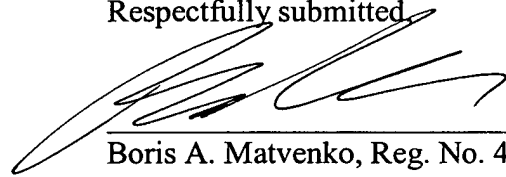
Claims 13 and 14 are patentable over Gerbault for at least the reasons stated above with respect to claim 4. Thus, claims 13 and 14 should be allowed.

No new matter has been added.

The claims currently presented are proper and definite. Allowance is accordingly in order and respectfully requested. However, should the Examiner deem that further clarification of the record is in order, we invite a telephone call to the Applicants' undersigned attorney to expedite further processing of the application to allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,



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